

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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EDITORIAL.

Speed the plow.

After-harvest cultivation helps to keep the farm clean.

The weather man has been a good helper in the gathering of hay and grain.

A good seed-bed is as essential, or even more so, for fall wheat as for the spring crops.

The well-cultivated corn field does not show effects of drouth like the field that has been neglected.

For the sake of future laying flocks, make careful note of the pullets that start to lay early this fall.

It is wonderful what a person can do when forced by an emergency—as seen on many a farm this year.

The moult of chickens may be stimulated by confining in narrow quarters, but the natural moult is the best after all.

A good, strong colony of bees, given a good location and during a good season, should produce a surplus of fifty to seventy-five pounds of honey.

The widespread infection from apple scab this year will likely make the new "Consumers'" brand better known than heretofore on the retail markets.

The British embargo on apples will likely persist throughout this season, but there should be no occasion for worry since the fruit crop is nowhere very heavy.

There are few scientific farmers, but there are a fair number of successful, practical farmers who follow scientific principles. They are the men who lead in agricultural progress.

Cows, hogs and corn make a combination in farming that has many times been successful. Incidentally, fruit, poultry and bees make an equally good combination for those whose inclinations turn in that direction.

Do not become discouraged because your crop of calves this year has shown too many of the wrong sex. Other people have had the same experience before, and by persistence have secured just as great a predominance another year of the right sex.

There seems to be a general impression among urban folk that all or any objectionable foreign element now found in the city should be passed on to the farmer and absorbed in agriculture, regardless of what unpleasantness such a course might cause in the rural home.

Some farmers who never feed concentrates to their cows except in small quantities wonder why other farmers are able to get such high yields from their cows. The other day we saw a cow that is being fed 30 pounds of concentrates per day. She gives promise of taking the lead in her class for yearly production.

What is rational farming? One explanation states that it is the return of a large proportion of the plant food which plants take from the soil, thus keeping up soil fertility without the direct use of plant food. It is also stated that there are only two ways of doing this; one, producing manure and its proper use, and the other the growing of clovers.

Seed Wheat.

Ere the month of August has come to a close, fall wheat seeding will be commenced in some parts of Ontario, and by that time the want of seed in a dozen or more counties where a deficit exists will begin to be felt. The normal acreage in Ontario is around 800,000 acres, which will require—if the usual amount of land is prepared—in the neighborhood of 1½ million bushels for seed. The Ontario Department of Agriculture has commissioned Dr. C. A. Zavitz to inspect the wheat crop in the Genesee Valley, New York State, with the object of importing a quantity of seed to be held in reserve. This is a wise precaution, but we believe the Agricultural Representatives in the various successful wheat-growing counties of Ontario could assemble sufficient for this fall's planting. Farmers, of course, would have to be induced to thresh their crops early and have it cleaned for immediate shipment. On two adjoining farms in Middlesex County there are 700 bushels grown from this year's crop, and the sample is good. A Bruce County farmer, on whom we called recently, had twenty acres in stook which would yield close to 25 bushels per acre, and he said he had 300 bushels left over from last year. These cases are exceptional, of course, but in travelling through the country representatives of this paper have seen a very considerable quantity of fall wheat, especially in Western Ontario, and in many sections it is the custom to hold over sufficient for the next year's seeding. Many prefer the current season's grain for planting in the fall, but between what was held over and what can be threshed before September 5 we should suffer no shortage of seed if it is properly distributed.

The dry weather has very much retarded preparation of land, and with suitable labor scarce, many farmers who would like to plant a reasonable acreage of fall wheat will find it almost impossible to do so. However, the desire to help out by the production of such a necessary commodity is general, and before the middle of September a fair amount of seeding may be done. Frequent cultivation and a good seed-bed prior to sowing are prime requisites for fall wheat production. It is advisable, also, to fertilize with manure or commercial fertilizer. In the past few years this crop has not made sufficient growth in the fall to carry it through the winter satisfactorily, and everyone should endeavor this year to give the young plants every possible chance before growth ceases in 1918. Obtain your seed early and prepare the land well.

Apply Manure Frequently.

All agricultural chemists and practical farmers of good standing are agreed that of the various kinds of manures and fertilizers available for the encouragement of plant growth, none are so effective and so generally valuable as well-cared-for barnyard manure. Besides containing all the most essential of the elements necessary to the development of the root, leaf and seed of the plant, barnyard manure is very valuable on account of the large quantity of humus which is incorporated into the soil. Calculated on the basis of the value of artificial fertilizers, barnyard manure is worth in the neighborhood of two dollars and a half per ton, a very much larger figure than is usually credited to this very common source of plant food by many agriculturists. In addition, there is the humus value of the manure, a very considerable item when we consider that humus is probably the most valuable of all our soil constituents.

Notwithstanding the immense value of barnyard manure to agriculture, there is sometimes shown on our farms a very evident lack of appreciation of the proper way to use it. Vast quantities of plant food are lost annually on the farms of Eastern Canada from improper storage of manure, or the application of relatively large amounts of manure to the land at long intervals. It has been repeatedly shown by investigation that

there will be some loss resulting from the rotting of manure even under the best of conditions, but it is also true that where the manure is not put into, or on to the soil at once, one-third its initial value is lost to that farm. Where it is not possible to take the manure to the field daily or weekly, it should be stored in as compact a condition as possible and, if at all possible, where the rain will not reach it. If it happens that the fertilizing constituents of the manure have been well conserved before it reaches the field, there is then every reason why it should be applied judiciously, so that the largest possible proportion of these constituents will serve as plant food. There is undoubtedly a distinct value to be realized from the frequent application of manure and, while there is the question of labor to consider in this connection, the principle underlying this desirable practice should be studied and the work of the farm planned as nearly in accordance with its practical application as circumstances will permit.

The Late Fruit Commissioner.

One branch of Canadian agriculture has suffered a severe blow through the death of Donald Johnson, the late Dominion Fruit Commissioner, but, while his services in behalf of the industry were appreciated by all, it is the loss of such an outstanding character and esteemed friend that will strike deepest in the hearts of those who knew him personally. Long before the duties of Fruit Commissioner were assumed at Ottawa, the deceased took a national rather than provincial interest in public affairs and matters pertaining to his occupation, and above all he was not evasive or prone to dodge a difficult situation. Earnestness, sincerity, and a conscientious application of his energies to the tasks which confronted him were traits of character which distinguished the late Commissioner and gained for him the respect of everyone. While the changed life from one of constant activity to the more or less sedentary habits common to office work cannot be held directly responsible for his death, it hastened, no doubt, the call of the Grim Reaper as it did in the case of the late John Bright, Live Stock Commissioner. The elevation of men, accustomed to the onerous duties connected with agriculture, to public office carries with it an element of danger and the possibility of an undue sacrifice of health.

Milk and Hot Weather.

Professor R. W. Brown in an article in this issue states that, "present day results unmistakably point to the conclusion that the two greatest causes of spoiled milk and cream are slow and insufficient cooling and the use of dirty utensils". There really should be no excuse for the use of dirty utensils in the dairy, since it is only a matter of common sense to know that with such a product as milk or cream cleanliness is of paramount consideration. There may be some shadow of an excuse for not always cooling milk promptly, since one must understand the nature of milk and the agencies, such as the many different forms of bacteria, which may operate to quickly lower its quality. That all milk contains certain numbers of bacteria and that these bacteria are capable of causing the souring of milk, are facts that are pretty generally known, but it requires some little thought and attention to the care of milk to find out that bacteria multiply more rapidly in warm milk than in milk that is kept cool and that milk will absorb foreign flavors much more readily when it is warm than when it is kept at a temperature below 60 degrees. The tables in connection with the article referred to are particularly interesting in this regard. Not only should milk be cooled to as low a temperature as possible but it should be cooled quickly as is shown by the fact that stirring the milk for one hour was sufficient to reduce the